



THE FIRST WORD

News from the First United Methodist Church
of South Bend, Indiana

In the heart of the city since 1831

February 10, 2010

Issue #405

JESUS, LOVER OF MY SOUL

Valentine's Day is coming – and we remember to show our love for our special people! Not just a spouse or sweetheart – but children, in-laws, and even preachers.

Who do you love?

How do you show it?

One person here at our church says that “Time is love”; by spending time with someone, you are showing your love.

Another says, “Food is love”, and grins while patting his tummy.

Another noted, after watching a conversation between me and another Pastor whom I have known for a number of years, “Yeah, I could tell he is not really a friend of yours – friends ask how the other person is doing, and show some interest in them, rather than just talking about themselves. And all he did was brag about himself and his church, and try to impress you. It was not impressive.”

A family I met with recently spoke of their mother, and how when she disagreed with her husband, and was frustrated with him, she would then do something nice for him, like bake an apple pie. “And there were a lot of apple pies while we were growing up!” She turned her energy into kindness, which helped resolve and reshape her feelings, as well.

A card is nice, flowers are nice, and, as Dorothy Parker says, candy is dandy... but time, and giving, and listening are the best ways to show love.

Not just on Valentine's Day, but every day. Practice love – practice until you have it perfect. Like Jesus.

Mary L. Hubbard

Worship Schedule

Worship, Chapel
8:45 a.m.

Sunday School
9:45 a.m.

Worship, Sanctuary
11:00 a.m.

Church Office Hours
Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - Noon
12:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Phone: (574) 233-9463
Fax: (574) 233-9478

First Staff

Mary L. Hubbard
Senior Pastor
Marsha Dollar
Administrative Assistant
Wishart Bell
Director of Music
Betty Woodland
Organist
LouAnne Wilson
Financial Manager
Diana Green
Coord. of Children's Ministries
David Frey
Coordinator of Youth Ministries
Ben Noell
Building Manager
John Jung-Zimmerman
Upper Room Director
Cathy Johnson
Church Growth Coordinator

**HAVE YOU REMEMBERED
FIRST CHURCH IN YOUR
WILL?**

A GREETING FROM THE CELTIC MUSICIANS



*May the horns of your cattle
always touch heather.*

Please join us for the 8:45 a.m. Worship Service
(in the Chapel) and hear the Celtic Musicians play.

THE MERRIMATES

The Merrimates invite everyone to join us as we gather in Room #38 on the third floor at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings from September through May. We enjoy a time of fellowship over coffee and light refreshments followed by a presentation. The presenters are members of our faith community who give generously of their time to share some aspect of their faith journey. Our class could be the means of the spiritual growth and fellowship you are seeking. All are welcome. Come and see!

COVENANT BIBLE CLASS

Join us Sundays at 9:45 a.m. for the Covenant Bible Class. We are located on the second floor next to the Paradise Pictures Room. Starting January 3, 2010, we will be studying "In the Dust of the Rabbi" from The Faith Lessons Series with Ray Vander Laan. We will learn where Jesus chose his disciples (Usually disciples chose which Rabbi they wanted to follow and learn from.) and what early Christian communities were like.

THIS AND THAT

This and That is couples and families studying various topics and interpreting our everyday lives in a Christian context. We meet Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m. in Room #22 on the second floor.

POTPOURRI CLASS

Join us in the Parlor Sunday mornings at 9:45 for the Potpourri Class. During the month of February, we will be watching and discussing the DVD "From Jesus to Christ".

GIVING BUILDS SOUL

“Philanthropic leaders of the past took issue with emphasizing the distribution of assets after death rather than during one’s lifetime. Josiah Strong warned his hearers that it was easy to accumulate wealth with the intention of later sharing it. ‘That is the pit in which many have perished. If a man is growing large in wealth, nothing but constant and generous giving can save him from growing small in soul.’”

[*Behind the Stained Glass Windows*, John and Sylvia Ronsvalle]

**That is one of the principle benefits of offering a portion of our money to God.
Building strong stewardship habits also builds strong souls.**

Herb Miller

UNITED METHODIST HAVE RAISED MORE THAN \$1 MILLION AS OF JAN. 16

The donations to the United Methodist Committee on Relief will support its efforts to respond to those most in need following the devastating Jan. 12 earthquake. An estimated 2 million to 3 million people need immediate assistance.

In a statement, Bishop Joel Martinez of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, UMCOR’s parent agency, said he was thankful “for the overwhelming generosity,” but encouraged further gifts. “This is heartening but needs to be multiplied many times over,” he said. “We believe that contributions to UMCOR at worship on Sunday (Jan. 17) will be a powerful testament to the love of United Methodists for those in crisis.”

UMCOR staff was expected to arrive in the Dominican Republic sometime over the weekend. The agency’s emergency response efforts will be coordinated with a variety of partners, including Church World Service, Action by Churches Together, Global Medic, Muslim Aid and the Methodist Church of Haiti.

OUR GIFTS TO HAITI

Our church has personally sent in \$3,301 to UMCOR to help with the devastation in Haiti.

Eila Ehmen (Sue Chesnut’s 8-year old granddaughter) walked through their neighborhood going door to door collecting money for Haiti. She collected \$68, which she gave to the church to send to UMCOR. *“Way to go Eila!”*

**joHn Kennedy (one of our Celtic Musicians)
plays at Lula’s Café (corner of Angela and S.R. 23)
Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m.**

You should stop by some Monday night and watch him perform!

PRAYER LIST

Following is a prayer list. Please remember to include these people in your regular prayers.

Mark Heyliger, MSG - In military service	Jim Borden - Health concerns
Stephen Gramza - In military service	Hannah Messersmith - Health concerns
Jonathan Mayers - In military service	Floyd Hugus - Health concerns
Michael Pershell - In military service	Peggy Soderberg - Health concerns
Jeremy Martin - Special needs	Maxine Jones - Health concerns
Pearl Rogers' Family - Many concerns	Gabriele Jamison - Health concerns
Beth Donathen - Recovering from accident	Wayne Jackson - Health concerns
Denny Jenks - Recovery	Betty Haines - Health concerns
Bob Dungy - Recovery	Mary Lou Gordon - Health concerns
Pat Canright & Family - Loss	Willa Pickens - Health concerns
Helen Searight & Family - Loss	Dylan Mayers - Health & Family Concerns

Also remember to pray for our members in long-term care, assisted living, and independent living:

Martha Abernethy	Betty Byers	Gene (Art) Snyder	Mary Etta Rees
Ruth Garen	Virginia O'Hair	Rich Daniels	JoAnn Ballard
Clem Gramza	Clarence Dickey	Ivan Biddle	Jo Perkey
Hugh & Lois Warren	Marian Wilson	Jim Borden	Betty Barnes
LaVergne Hagenbuch	Freda Mossman	Melvena Stenger	Betty Fisk
Hannah Messersmith	Al Aguirre	Thair Best	Jack Fassnacht

Additionally pray for:

Our Bishop Mike	Our Church
Our District Superintendent, Cindy Reynolds	Our Church Staff
Our Pastor Mary	

BEGINNING EXPERIENCE OF SOUTH BEND COPING WITH LIFE ALONE

The Coping With Life Alone Series is for persons acutely grieving the recent death of a spouse or the recent death of a marriage by separation or divorce. This is a six-week series beginning February 16 and ending March 23, 2010. The sessions will be held on Tuesday evenings from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Sunnyside Presbyterian Church located at 115 S. Frances Street in South Bend. The cost is \$25. Contact Larry Scheibelhut at 243-7405 or Judy Henthorn at 233-7922.

CURRENT FINANCES

Income: \$58,048.00

Expenses: \$20,883.64

Balance: \$37,164.36

This does not reflect our deficit at the end of 2009, nor our cuts we have yet to make for 2010 to meet our budget.



RESCUE, RELIEF, AND RECOVERY

The terrible aftermath of the devastating earthquake in Haiti has reminded us once again of the wonderful capacity of humanity to respond to the needs of others. It also reminds us that we need to be clear about the various ways we can help, along with the “phases” of assistance which will be required.

What I learned from working with UMCOR during the floods and emergencies in the Dakotas was that there are three distinct phases to Disaster Response, each one usually taking about ten times as long as the preceding phase. As I best understand it, these are the phases:

Rescue – this is the time when emergency response focuses upon finding survivors, getting them to emergency help, and assessing the size and scope of the tragedy. This Rescue phase is best done by police, fire departments, EMS teams, and in the case of large-scale emergencies, the National Guard and other military. This Rescue phase is what is happening right now in Haiti, and it is limited by the absence of a support system to provide even the most basic of human needs.

Relief – this phase begins during the later part of the Rescue phase, and it usually lasts about 10 times as long as the Rescue phase. This phase is all about helping people to be “safe, secure, and sanitary.” In the US, by federal law, this task is given primarily to the Red Cross, and that is also true in international situations with the International Red Cross. We can already see this phase beginning as the Rescue phase continues in Haiti, and the military is helping since the infrastructure is so damaged in Haiti. We can expect this Relief phase to last at least 10 times as long as the Rescue phase (which is itself still on-going, so I imagine that the Relief phase will last many months).

Recovery – this phase, which often lasts 10 times as long as the Relief phase, is the longest and most demanding phase of Disaster Response. It often is led by church groups, faith groups, and other NGO’s (non-governmental organizations). UMCOR, our United Methodist Committee on Relief, often begins its work during the Relief phase and continues through the Recovery phase long after the Red Cross and other emergency and relief groups have left the disaster. In the Dakotas, for example, our recovery response to the flood of 1996 continued well into 1998, and the last VIM team (Volunteer in Mission) worked the recovery about 2 ½ years after the original flood. The goal of Recovery is simply to help people get back to somewhere near their original condition before the disaster.

I share this understanding of the phases of Disaster Response to remind us that the situation in Haiti will require years of relief and recovery. Long after CNN and other news groups have grown weary of reporting the situation, we will need lots of faith groups and other caring persons to help Haiti return to normalcy, or perhaps even to improve its prior situation.

I also share this understanding of Disaster Response as a tribute to the two UMCOR staff persons (Sam Dixon and Clinton Rabb) who died in the recent earthquake. They were in Haiti supervising the on-going Recovery from the floods and hurricanes of two years ago. Their presence is a testimony to how long, hard, and faithfully UMCOR works on these long-term recovery issues. We can be proud of our part in their work, since we all support the basic underlying structures of UMCOR and our other mission work through our United Methodist apportionments, which in Indiana are included in the Tithe budget of the Annual Conference.

Please join me in praying for all who were victims of the Haiti earthquake, and please join me in honoring the memory of Sam Dixon and Clinton Rabb by continuing to support the work of UMCOR.

There are lots of ways to give and help in Haiti, including the immediate ways of supporting the Red Cross. For the long-term recovery, our support of UMCOR will be essential, and it will be a fitting tribute to those who died serving in our name.

Thank you.

KID'S NEWS!

By Diana Green

Have you been baptized? Did you know that even Jesus, the Son of God, was baptized? A man we call John the Baptist performed this marvelous act. God was so happy he sent a dove from heaven and a voice was heard saying, "this is my Son, the Beloved, of whom I am well pleased." This month the children will be baptizing dolls and making Stone Soup. Sound intriguing? Ask one of the children to tell you about it! We have lots of room in the Promised Land...please bring children, any children, to Sunday School! Thanks!

The Education Commission's Lenten Devotional will be available on February 14. Make sure you have a copy!

PENNY UPDATE



We have collected \$666.03 to date. We are definitely moving closer to our goal of a "Mile of Pennies!" Thanks to everyone for their help.



JANUARY MISSION TALLIES

Food Pantry: For the month of January, the Food Pantry served 364 families, representing 1,495 individuals.

Soup Kitchen: 978 people were served and 927 carry-out bags were given away for a total of 4,065 cups of soup served in January.

Upper Room: 16 residents at this time (14 men and 2 women)

TIME CHANGE FOR THE ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

The Ash Wednesday Services will be held at 12:00 Noon and 6:30 p.m. (not 6:00 as the February Calendar stated).

Please mark that change on your calendars. Thanks!

**DON'T FORGET
FEBRUARY 14
IS VALENTINES DAY**



DID YOU KNOW...

A little over thirty years ago, another Methodist church merged with our Church. On July 1, 1978, Trinity Grace United Methodist Church, located on Vassar Ave. in South Bend, closed its doors for the last time and officially merged with First United Methodist Church. With declining membership numbers and an aging congregation, Trinity Grace made the difficult decision to close, and chose First Church to be the new church home for its members.

A merger was not a new concept for Trinity; according to an article in the South Bend Tribune in June of 1978, the congregation at the time of the merger with First Church had resulted from the 1967 merger with Grace United Evangelical Brethren Church. In fact, the original Trinity Methodist Church got its start around the turn of the century as a Sunday school for children of First Methodist who lived in the neighborhood.

Many of the Trinity Grace members became members at our church, and some are still members. With the sale of the Trinity Grace church building, parsonage, and adjoining lot, the Trinity Trust was set up, and is still maintained. The principal balance has been reinvested over the years, and the interest income has been used every year for maintenance and upkeep of our current church building.

At the time of the merger, the pastor of Trinity Grace Church was Rev. Jonathon Gosser, the brother of a current member of our Church, Mark Gosser. Rev. Gosser is currently serving as senior pastor of First United Methodist Church, Hobart, Indiana.



PRODUCTIVE PAIN

*All things work together for good
to those who love God,
to those who are the called
according to God's purpose
- Romans 8:28*

I'll never forget when our youngest child Matthew fell and broke his wrist. It was grotesque! His arm took a sharp left turn at his wrist and then turned again to resume its normal journey to his hand.

We rushed him to the hospital where the doctor began to set his wrist. I watched as the physician pulled and twisted Matthew's arm. I wanted to jump up and pull him away from my son! But I simply sat and watched, knowing that the agony was necessary to make Matt whole again.

If we trust earthly doctors to do that for our children, how much more we should be willing to trust God, the Great Physician, to reset our broken lives "to be conformed to the image of God's Son" (Romans 8:29). One of God's purposes in pain is to brand the image of Jesus in our hearts. Can we weep with those who weep? God may need to stain our cheeks with our own tears so that we can genuinely empathize with others as Jesus did. Are we self-sufficient? God may need to strip away our security to conform us to the God-sufficiency that Christ displayed. Are we faithless? It may require a tragedy to teach us to trust God as Jesus did.

Next time you feel broken, don't panic - praise God! God is at work!

Joe Stowell

*Life's fractures can be mended
By faith in Christ the Lord -
At first the pain but then the gain
And usefulness restored. —Hess*

God's purpose in pain is to brand God's image in our hearts!

OUR LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

The Education Committee is publishing a Daily Devotional for all of our members and families to use from February 17 through April 4. May people are writing their thoughts that will help our spiritual lives to grow.

Although our preparation time is short, we hope to have the booklet ready to distribute on Sunday, February 14. We encourage you to plan a time for your family to spend time together daily as you read the selection, the scripture and the prayer for the day.

If you cannot pick up your copy on February 14, let the church office know.

We hope this booklet will help all of us grow in our love for God.

THE CHURCH DIRECTORY

Thank you so much for your patience. We have had several delays in the completion of the directory. We have heard from The Lifetouch Company and they say that presently they will mail the completed directory on February 12. Our plan is to distribute them on Sunday, February 21, following the church services.

Remember a free Church Directory will be given to those who have a picture included. If after the directory is completed and you have a change in any of the information (phone, address, etc.), please call the church office so that we can publish an update of information. This directory is only as good as the current information about each family.

A BIG THANK YOU!

The Board of Directors of The Downtown Soup Kitchen would like to issue a big thank you to you, the congregation of First United Methodist Church. Thanks to you, 2009 was a very successful year at the Soup Kitchen. Your support was outstanding in every way - in the gifts of your time, your finances, the use of your building, your donations of food, and your prayers.

We are now serving more than 18,000 meals and 50,000+ carry-out cups of soup a year and actually spending less money in the process. Because of you, the hungry of our community are being fed.

So again, as we begin 2010 - Thank You!

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Check out the website:

www.firstumcsb.org

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

UNITED METHODIST HISTORY

Madison, New Jersey (UMTV) - A treasure trove of United Methodist history can be found the campus of Drew University. On display are one-of-a kind artifacts like a death mask of John Wesley and the original Enoch Wood bust commissioned during Wesley's lifetime. Audio and video clips and rare documents also make up "the largest collection of Methodist history anywhere in the world."

Find UMTV's Museum of Methodism and other UMTV stories on YouTube and Tangle by typing "UMTV" in the keyword search. You can also find the latest UMTV videos on Facebook, if you become a fan of the United Methodist Church page.

For more United Methodist news and information, log on to www.umc.org and click on news.